

CLEVELAND PUBLIC LIBRARY
LIBRARY FOR THE BLIND DIVISION

ANNUAL REPORT -- 1968

MAY 5 1969

To Miss Clara E. Luciola, Supervisor
Hospital and Institutions Department

NEW DEVELOPMENTS

The major developments of 1968 have brought increasing complexity to the work of the Library for the Blind, renamed, in popular usage, in order to emphasize the services given rather than the handicaps of the users. The new 8 1/3 recording speed for magazines took the spotlight in January with the conversion of READER'S DIGEST and NEWSWEEK. The resulting saving in production cost made possible many more copies and thus up-to-date issues to the majority of readers. In addition the distribution of NEWSWEEK was taken over by the American Printing House for the Blind. This shift brought comments pro and con, and many, many problems. Hopefully they were resolved to a large extent by the year's end. It is expected that by the end of 1969 all talking book magazines will be recorded at this speed. Library statistics were in turn affected by the "loss" of NEWSWEEK circulation amounting to approximately 12,000, so that the modest gain for the year of 3,677 should be viewed in this perspective.

At the request of the State Library of Ohio, the Regional Libraries of Cleveland and Cincinnati became the talking book machine agencies for the handicapped in Ohio, responsible for certifying the eligibility of those with a visual or physical disability making it impossible for them to use conventional print, but not legally blind. This decision came about because of a ruling that the Bureau of Services for the Blind could not perform this service without new legislation. This new service includes the distribution of these talking book record players, and responsibility for clerical records. The Ohio, or Kingsbury Chapter, of the Telephone Pioneers of America and the private agencies for the blind in the State where the Pioneers already repair the machines for the blind, have agreed to cooperate with the Regional Libraries in the repair and maintenance of machines for the new group. The Cleveland Public Library has assigned excellent additional space to make this feasible.

The number of handicapped readers now served under the Library Services and Construction Act, Title IV-B, has more than doubled in 1968, and represents 7% of the total of 3,964 readers who are active. The comparison is: Blind - 3,677, Visually Handicapped - 131, Physically Handicapped - 156. The net increase in readers for the year was 237. Partners in the promotion of talking book service to handicapped persons deserving special mention are: The Ohio Society for Crippled Children and Adults, the National Multiple Sclerosis Society, hospital librarians, professionals in the public health field. The Cleveland Society for the Blind has referred about one half of the persons with visual handicaps.

Cooperation with local libraries received new emphasis when the State Library of Ohio published a handsome brochure to be sent to all the libraries and their branch centers throughout Ohio. In the fall the position on the State Library Staff of Consultant for Library Service to the Handicapped was filled by the appointment of Miss Roger Mae Johnson. Her primary responsibility will be to work with local libraries to assist them in promoting and demonstration of the talking book service from the Regional Libraries, and also in the planning of liaison contact with local readers and the Regional Libraries. They will be encouraged to give additional services to these same persons such as reading guidance, reference service, group programs, and to increase their own resources of commercial recordings and large type materials for local circulation.

This library held a workshop for representatives of public libraries in the Cleveland Region. There was much interest, and 18 librarians attended from 9 different counties in addition to officials from the State Library. Of these libraries, three have already designated a staff member to promote and demonstrate the talking book service and/or serve as liaison with local readers. These libraries are Akron, Elyria and Geauga County Public Libraries. There may be others we have not heard from specifically, but this marks the beginning of a most significant trend.

A bequest of \$20,000 was received in April by the Cleveland Public Library for the Library for the Blind from the estate of Miss Bertha K. Narten. The income will be of immeasurable value to the work which depends upon gifts for special services and new programs.

TALKING BOOKS

The variety of readers and their tastes is a never failing spur to the staff members that select their books. While many send in requests, now facilitated by the new sound sheet in TALKING BOOK TOPICS so enthusiastically received, much of the choosing of books to be sent is at the discretion of the staff. The picture they build of readers comes from the steady stream of telephone calls and letters that are revealing and build the two-way communication that is essential for personal service. A few quotations will illustrate.

"I think these talkie books have kept my mind alert. I do not feel so out of tune with the world..."

"I am not interested in scientific reading and deep subjects like that. I think at 72 I had better stick to light subjects. I live alone and have much time on my hands."

"I would like to request them oftener but with full family responsibilities and a young child I do not think I can manage. This is the first book I have read in six years and believe me it is a God send."

"My husband is retired and can't get outside much. He is now listening to the EDDIE RICKENBACKER STORY."

"Am giving two talks on talking books and demonstrating with explanations record and Robert Frost."

After reading BEST NEGRO SHORT STORIES,

"Mm - was that good! Going to run my light bill up - I had the record player on all day, but was it good!"

Even so, as a staff member comments,

"Because our service is conducted almost exclusively by mail and at a volume that constantly threatens to drown the human component, personal contacts with readers are always welcome. Vis a vis conversations, however brief usually result in a sharper understanding of reader's needs."

The age range is 4 years to 106. There are lifetime readers and those who are temporary such as the seventeen year old boy who injured his head in an automobile accident and read ten books from his literature reading list while he recovered. An older man read the entire BIBLE while convalescing from a cataract operation.

The talking book collection must cover the full range of interests, and as always, one man's meat is for him. Notwithstanding, some demands are more incessant than others. To quote again,

"We still need more light reading in talking books. We receive too many copies of heavy non-fiction, and could use more travel and popular biography. Recently, we've received quite a few Young Adult books which we can use, but there is also a real need for books for the very young. True, little children do like to hear stories and rhymes over and over again, but we can't send them more than three or four times. We definitely could use more talking books for children in the three to seven age group."

The pattern of service has generally been a rotating one; when books are returned to the Library, replacements are sent. This year a program was undertaken to streamline the service and make it more efficient. The readers were divided into ten groups in order to evolve a two week schedule which would include everyone, and with the number of books sent at a time geared to the individual's reading pace, with a view of keeping them supplied without being overstocked. This experiment is still in process, but already many interesting things have been discovered.

There are many more people who read books only occasionally or who specify that books are to be sent only when requested, or that want magazines only, than had been suspected. There was a surprising number who had not returned books for several months and had become static. Like the general public many handicapped people are not regular readers. A great many readers are very much pleased with the idea and it is probable that in the end about 40 to 50% will fall into a two week pattern, but that there will always be a large proportion whose service will remain on a request basis or quite slow rotation. The most active and steady group of readers is already on a weekly schedule of service. The best results will probably come with new readers who sometimes are lost track of in the early months of reading and become discouraged. The hope is that this procedure will improve the service to the average reader.

BRAILLE

The reading of Braille continues much as always, indispensable to those with the skill to use it. The true satisfaction that this medium gives comes alive with the comment of a new Braille reader when she telephoned to ask for the READER'S DIGEST. She said,

"You'll never know how exciting it is to be able to read quietly."

This woman is 56 years old and began reading talking books in May of 1967.

A young man with imagination, intending to go to the opera took the story in Braille over to the Fine Arts Department and read as he listened to the music records.

The Volunteer Braille Service of the American Red Cross fulfilled many special requests including BLACK LIKE ME, needed urgently by a blind student visiting Cleveland during vacation. Another, a statistical summary of WORLD SERIES GAMES, INNING BY INNING 1903-1965, compiled by a Clevelander for a blind friend was a monumental work that we hope will be popular with baseball fans.

Miss Dorothy Stone, teacher in the Willoughby-Eastlake schools presented the Library with about 100 thermoform copies of books that she and her assistant had brailled for children, a most valuable gift.

YOUNGER READERS

Mrs. Margaret Stanavage, Children's Librarian, reports,

"Our work with children and young adults included another successful summer reading program. Over 40 young readers went "exploring" with us during July and August, most received a certificate of achievement in the fall. Since 1968 was the year for voting and poll-taking, our Explorers cast ballots in September for the books they most enjoyed reading. The 25 "winning" titles were compiled into an annotated list and sent (in both both print and braille) to all members of the summer reading program. The letters and notes received from these young folks leave no doubt about the great pleasure they derive from even so small a gesture of interest in them."

Earlier in the year an opportunity came to meet with the East and West Side Parents groups of the Cleveland Society for the Blind. Much information was exchanged between librarians and parents. It was a two way conversation that highlighted the information parents need about library service if they are to help their children effectively. Visits to several schools were made with Mrs. Dorothy Stevens of the Cleveland Board of Education. This cooperation is most helpful as in some instances this was the first meeting in person of children, librarian and teacher. Mrs. Stanavage continues,

"An especially profitable contact this year was a day spent at the Ohio State School for the Blind. Many specific requests were recorded, then subsequently filled, several rotating deposit collections are now sent

monthly to the school. An excellent grounding for even closer future ties has been established. When our department once again includes a full-time and permanent staff member in this position, a series of annual visits by her to the schools we serve could establish an excellent rapport with the various faculties involved and could nurture friendships with many children sufficiently close to afford opportunities for true reading guidance."

"Much of our division's reference work is also part of our service to young adults in high school or college. The ordering of titles from Recording for the Blind in New York for dispatch directly to the reader has become a standard extension of our service. A tremendously helpful new tool is the American Printing House catalog of textual material available on disc, tape, or in braille from sources over the entire nation."

MAGNETIC TAPE

The service on tape is growing and this year 3,847 reels were circulated, but needs more promotion than has been given before. Mrs. Blanche Rich who is responsible for the tape circulation system says that she could circulate more tape recordings if she could devote more concentrated attention to it. Most of the service at present is on request only and needs the stimulation of a new annotated, recorded list of holdings; and development of service on a rotating system for tape readers who want to have tape consistently. Five tape magazines are now sent regularly: FOREIGN AFFAIRS, GALAXY, HIGH FIDELITY, QST and THE WRITER. The Library's tape recorders have been used in the Department by a blind social worker and his secretary to record from professional journals, material needed in his research.

A valuable resource to the Library is the two year old Cleveland Taping for the Blind. In this short time it has expanded into an organization with 83 volunteer recorders under the stimulating leadership of Mrs. Madge Snyder and the Volunteer Services Department of the Cleveland Society for the Blind which provides space and funds for operation. The Cleveland Public Library as a joint sponsor commissioned 29 titles through this service in 1968, supplying tape and print copies of the books to be recorded. This is only a beginning for the library aspect of this service which has great potential. The work in greatest demand of Cleveland Taping for the Blind is to fulfill the required reading of students. This is a most urgent need and a growing one as the use of tape becomes more widespread. The Division Head has served as Chairman of the Cleveland Taping for the Blind Advisory Committee.

LARGE TYPE

Books in Large type and the large type edition of READER'S DIGEST is now being sent to a small group of readers. There have also been many requests for the Cleveland Public Library list "Second Sight Through Books in Large Type". These books are available, or should be, in the future, in public libraries generally. Certification is not needed to borrow them, only to permit free mailing. One copy of Keith Jennison books is received regularly as a publisher's gift. Title IV-B funds are being used to increase holdings in general.

VOLUNTEERS

The Braille and Talking Book Service enjoys the assistance of many individual volunteers who give many hours of work, as well as the close cooperation already mentioned of volunteer organizations. The production of the circulating copies of books on tape continues to be done primarily by members of the Telephone Pioneers of America: Raymond Christian, Stanley Seidman, Eugene Milliff and their leader Marcellus Furlong who reports that production in 1968 has been 1,564 reels, duplicated in 417 hours.

Thanks are due to the Braille volunteers, Mrs. Madge Snyder assisted by Helen Paliskis, who transcribe correspondence, short selections of material, thermoform the newsletters, routine notices and reading lists. The binders of hand-copies braille books are easily damaged in mailing and need frequent repair and even replacement of pages; their help with this is invaluable also.

Dyke College students under the Community Service Program supervised by Mr. Kermit Lidstrom as a credit course for potential executives are frequent volunteers. This year 16 different students worked 30-40 hours each. They learn quickly and take a real interest. Their work made possible the processing related to the cancellation of worn and no longer needed talking books recorded at 33 1/3 speed and many shelves of obsolete Braille 1½. They also provided plenty of brawn in shifting books. In addition they type, file and perform most routine page jobs, depending upon the need for it. During periods of reduced page staff, this help has been vital.

CONCLUSION

The keynote of 1968 seems to be the increasing complexity in the work of the Division; more services, more outside contacts with related organizations, more communication with readers, many volunteers to supervise in addition to the regular staff. A conference of all the Regional Librarians of the Library of Congress Division for the Blind and Handicapped was held in Washington at the new division headquarters which proved to be very helpful. Opportunities for the discussion of problems with colleagues in the same field, and the important information disseminated are a fundamental need. Nevertheless so many new developments coming all at once has had a heavy impact on the staff. As one of them put it,

"The pressure of work with the blind and physically handicapped increases each year - actually each day is more hectic than the one before. Thankfully we all have a good sense of humor and can let off steam in that way often."

It is to be hoped that as the new work becomes more familiar that some of the strain will lessen. Much thought is being given to organization and procedures, this is the imperative task for 1969. That the work goes as well as it does now is a tribute to an experienced, persistent and truly devoted staff, but a solution must be found, not only for their sake but for the service itself.

Katherine Prescott, Head
Braille and Talking Book Service.

CIRCULATION OF BOOKS AND MAGAZINES: TOTAL - BLIND AND HANDICAPPED

	<u>Adult</u>	<u>Juvenile</u>	<u>Total</u>
Total 1968	189,676	8,232	197,908
1967	<u>186,279</u>	<u>7,952</u>	<u>194,231</u>
Increase	3,397	280	3,677
Talking Books and Magazines	171,608	4,614	176,222
Magazines 1968		<u>Total</u>	
Magazines 1967		<u>63,608</u>	
		<u>69,021</u>	
Decrease		5,413	
Braille Books and Magazines	14,194	3,618	17,812
Magazines 1968	4,753	1,771	<u>Total</u>
Magazines 1967	<u>3,833</u>	<u>1,805</u>	<u>6,524</u>
Increase	920		<u>5,638</u>
Decrease		34	886
Magnetic Tape Books			3,847
1968	3,847		
1967	<u>3,202</u>		
Increase	645		
Large Type			27
1968	27		
1967	<u>10</u>		
Increase	17		
Circulation to Handicapped			<u>Total</u>
Talking Books and Magazines			
1968	5,579	17	5,596
1967	<u>1,909</u>	-	<u>1,909</u>
Increase	3,670	17	3,687
Magazines			
1968	1,660		
1967	<u>226</u>		
	1,434		
Magnetic Tape			
1968	428		
1967	<u>113</u>		
Increase	315		

BOOK COLLECTION

	<u>Adult</u>	<u>Juvenile</u>	<u>Total</u>
Talking Book Containers	20,913	4,085	24,998
Braille Volumes			
Non-fiction	13,511	1,136	
Fiction	11,474	1,718	27,739
Magnetic Tape - Reels			6,887

DONORS OF MONETARY GIFTS

Beta Sigma Phi - Xi Alpha Nu Chapter
 The Continental Book Club
 Mrs. Robert Housum
 Mrs. Francis E. Howe
 Mrs. George S. Kendrick
 The Lions Club of Cleveland, Inc.
 Mrs. Lulu C. McGraw
 The Oldenew Shoppe
 Mrs. C. D. Russell
 West Shore Delta Gamma Alumnae
 Dr. and Mrs. Benjamin J. Wolpaw

In Memory of: Mr. Jack M. Beggs
 Mrs. Merrill Cox
 Mrs. John Cummins
 Miss Hazel Eaglen
 Miss Betty C. Pfaffmann
 Mrs. Margaret C. Pfaffmann

CLEVELAND PUBLIC LIBRARY

BRAILLE AND TALKING BOOK SERVICE

Active borrowers during 1968 distributed by Counties in Ohio

BLIND READERS

Allen	55	Hardin	7	Paulding	4
Ashland	21	Harrison	15	Portage	32
Ashtabula	49	Henry	9	Putnam	16
Auglaize	15	Holmes	8	Richland	67
Belmont	37	Huron	26	Sandusky	23
Carroll	6	Jefferson	28	Seneca	34
Columbiana	61	Knox	26	Shelby	10
Champaign	6	Lake	76	Stark	126
Clark	12	Licking	44	Summit	218
Coshocton	19	Logan	18	Trumbull	69
Crawford	26	Lorain	120	Tuscarawas	31
Cuyahoga	1131	Lucas	251	Union	13
Darke	9	Madison	8	Van Wert	7
Defiance	5	Mahoning	153	Wayne	36
Delaware	15	Marion	24	Williams	14
Erie	24	Medina	19	Wood	36
Franklin	424	Mercer	13	Wyandotte	22
Fulton	11	Miami	11	Out of District	5
Geauga	25	Morrow	9		—
Guernsey	19	Muskingum	35	TOTAL BLIND	3,677
Hancock	27	Ottowa	17	TOTAL HANDICAPPED	287
				ALL READERS	3,964

HANDICAPPED READERS

I. VISUALLY HANDICAPPED

Allen	2	Henry	2	Richland	2
Ashland	1	Jefferson	1	Seneca	1
Auglaize	1	Lake	6	Shelby	1
Columbiana	2	Licking	1	Stark	1
Defiance	1	Lorain	13	Summit	6
Cuyahoga	70	Lucas	1	Trumbull	1
Fulton	1	Madison	1	Van Wert	1
Franklin	9	Mahoning	1	Wayne	<u>1</u>
Geauga	2	Mercer	2	TOTAL	131

II. PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED

Allen	6	Geauga	1	Portage	1
Ashland	1	Knox	1	Putnam	1
Belmont	1	Lake	6	Richland	2
Columbiana	7	Licking	3	Stark	2
Champaign	1	Logan	1	Summit	14
Cuyahoga	43	Lorain	9	Tuscarawas	1
Darke	2	Lucas	4	Trumbull	10
Defiance	1	Mahoning	17	Union	1
Erie	2	Marion	2	Wayne	<u>1</u>
Franklin	9	Medina	1	TOTAL	156
Fulton	3	Ottawa	2		

Visually Handicapped Readers 131

Physically Handicapped Readers 156

TOTAL HANDICAPPED READERS 287